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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/994,283	11/26/2001	Jin Young Chun	CU-2732 RJS	8829
26530	7590	07/19/2005	EXAMINER	
LADAS & PARRY LLP 224 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE SUITE 1600 CHICAGO, IL 60604			SEFER, AHMED N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2826	

DATE MAILED: 07/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/994,283

Applicant(s)

CHUN ET AL.

Examiner

A. Sefer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 April 2005.
 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed April 6, 2005 has been entered; no new claims have been introduced.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 4/6/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

3. The Applicants argue that Takebayashi et al. ("Takebayashi") JP 10-268356 does not disclose all the claimed elements either explicitly or inherently. Specifically, Applicants argue that Takebayashi's pillar-like spacer 25 are inside active area. Applicants further argue that Takebayashi does not disclose forming a contact hole in the insulating layer on the common bus, and electrically connecting the ITO formed on the supporting column with the common bus line through the contact hole, thereby applying a uniform common voltage to the entire upper substrate.

4. In response, the Examiner is of the opinion that Takebayashi's pillar-like spacer 25 as shown in fig. 2 is outside the active area of the transistor on the left side of left side of electrode 23.

5. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., forming a contact hole in the insulating layer on the common bus, and electrically connecting the ITO formed on the supporting column with the common bus line through the contact hole, thereby applying a uniform common voltage to the entire upper substrate) are not recited in the rejected

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specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claim 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takebayashi.

Takebayashi discloses in figs. 1-7 a liquid crystal display device comprising: a supporting column 25 provided for an upper substrate 9 and vertically extended from the upper substrate to the lower substrate so as to maintain a uniform cell gap therebetween; a contact part 22 provided for a common line disposed at a peripheral region outside an active area of the lower substrate 9 opposite to the upper substrate, wherein the contact part faces the supporting column at a corresponding position so as to guide electrical communication between the supporting column and the common line; and an electrically conductive layer 26 formed on the outer surfaces of the supporting column and the upper substrate, wherein a portion of the electrically conductive layer on the supporting column is joined to the common line within the contact part so as to establish a signal interconnection between the lower substrate and the upper substrate.

Regarding claim 2, Takebayashi discloses an insulating layer 20 provided for a common line, and a contact part being a contact hole 22 formed in the insulating layer so as to expose a portion of the common line.

8. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takebayashi.

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Takebayashi discloses in figs. 1-7 a method for fabricating a liquid crystal display device, comprising: providing a supporting column 25 for an upper substrate 9, wherein the supporting column is vertically extended from the upper substrate to a lower substrate so as to maintain a uniform cell gap between the outer surface of the upper substrate of the upper substrate and the lower substrate; forming an electrically conductive layer 26 or an ITO (as in claim 5) on the outer surfaces of the supporting column and the upper substrate; providing a contact part 22 for a common line disposed at a peripheral region outside an active area of the lower substrate 9 confronting the upper substrate, wherein the contact part faces the supporting column at a corresponding position; and uniting the lower substrate and the upper substrate so that a portion of the electrically conductive layer on the supporting column is joined to the common line within the contact part, thereby establishing a signal interconnection between the lower substrate and the upper substrate.

Regarding claim 4, Takebayashi discloses an insulating layer 20 being provided for a common line, and a contact part being a contact hole 22 formed in the insulating layer so as to expose a portion of the common line.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

NATHAN J. FLYNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Sefer whose telephone number is (571) 272-1921.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ANS

June 26, 2005